

Community Preservation Act Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, 19 June 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mary Streeter (Vice Chair), Marilyn Blaustein, Paris Boice, Jim Oldham, Laura Lovett, Peter Jessup, Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Anderson, Jim Brissette, Ellen Kosmer

STAFF PRESENT: David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager

Agenda items to be discussed:

- Approve minutes
- Go into Executive session under G.L.c30A, §21 (a)(6) to approve executive session minutes
- Recap/discussion of CPA-related articles that have been decided at Town Meeting
- Update on Rolling Green
- Planning for fall public hearing
- Topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before the meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Mary Streeter at 7:06 pm in the Community Room at the Police Station.

Minutes:

Minutes for May 8th moved for approval by Paris, seconded by Jim, accepted, voted and approved (4-0-1, with Marilyn abstaining with a few typo amendments suggested.)

Minutes for April 24, 2014, Paris moved to approve the regular session minutes, seconded by Mary, voted and approved. (4-0-1, Lovett abstaining)

Executive Session to Approve Minutes

Executive session minutes for April 24, 2014, voted and approved in separate executive session, begun at 7:20 and ended at 7:25 by vote of the committee. (4-0-1, Lovett abstaining, with a few minor typos corrected on page 2).

Recap/discussion of CPA-related articles that had been decided at Town Meeting

Marilyn noted that CPA proposal was not met with much objection at Town Meeting, with a unanimous vote on the Barn Preservation proposal. Mary noted that the move from \$750,000 to \$1, 250,000 in support for the Preservation of Rolling Green went well, too, though David Ziomek noted that there was some confusion about the proposal. There were few objections to the article at the Meeting.

Mary noted that a campaign to get the CPA budget surcharge passed, needs to begin soon. Peter suggested that we as individuals can participate in a campaign. It is important to clarify the role of the CPA in the community.

David Ziomek suggested that individual committees like the Historical Commission could discuss the need for a proposed increase. Jim pointed out that the state level CPA Coalition, of which we are a member does lobby the state legislature which promotes the need for general funding. Jim noted that the CPA Committee should support the idea of CPA and individuals on the CPA could reach out to the public. Mary wanted previous projects up on the website since it is only up on from 2008 on. The Town hasn't put up all of the CPA projects from 2002-2008 so far. David Ziomek noted that the town does have running totals on the website (he calls it the "horse race" in terms of the long-term allocation.) Mary noted that this material is not available in an available form because they fall off after 2008. David offered to get the missing reports to Mary but not in the next two weeks. Mary thanked Dave for agreeing to get the town reports and the list of

all money spent. Marilyn noted that the Select Board had already endorsed the proposal which should be on November 4, 2014.

Peter chaired the rest of the meeting.

Update on Rolling Green

David Ziomek gave an update on Rolling Green, noting that everything is going well, with only positive movements since the Town Meeting. Another Update and Media Press release is likely in the next 2-3 weeks. Jim noted that the state contribution of 5.1 million was contingent on a contribution of \$100,000 per unit, which might assume 51 units. Dave clarified that there were some other options and that the state contribution was not in danger. Town Meeting voted on 41 units at 80% AMI and those had been approved; the Town Goal is to do better than the approved percentage. Dave noted that Amherst was the only community in the Commonwealth to get a Housing Hero Award for all the Committees and Boards and Individuals from the Massachusetts Housing Partnership.

Planning for Fall Public Hearing

Mary noted that the Public Hearing is set for Tuesday, September 30th at 7pm.

Hearing Goals Discussion:

Mary noted that we'd like to get feedback from the public on areas they would like us to prioritize. Jim noted that we should ask for specific suggestions beyond general feedback. Paris asked whether this might mean a single place or location or the general area. Jim noted that some town plans will get very specific, noting, for example that a particular park or area is needed to be addressed by the plan. Peter asked whether this was a way to get a general agenda for the next 3 years or so. Jim suggested that this public hearing should be a way to get some public outreach and visions into the plans, as well as to get input from the member/feeder committees. Mary noted that she had not been able to read some of the sample CPA Coalition plans while Paris noted a real range in the types of plan.

How to be productive? Dave noted that most of the commissions drafted the bones of the plan first and then presented that to the public (Acton's, Gloucester's, Plimpton's, Lexington's and Sharon's – with Lexington's and Sharon's looking the best to him). He recommended a general plan outline before the hearing. Marilyn noted that we have some long-term commitments like housing (20 years) that we need to lay out what commitments we already have. This dovetails with the earlier discussion of what the CPA has already done. Paris asked whether we could divide this up by our areas of expertise; she could take Conservation piece, Peter could take on the Housing piece, Laura, the Historical Commission piece. Jim noted if we decided to do this, then we would need to meet once or twice before Sept. 30th Hearing. We would owe it to the town to weigh some of this. Mary suggested that we should take photographs of the past projects, like the UU Stained Glass Windows or Open Space areas. Peter appreciated Jim's point that we need to add in on the decision about how to spend the funds but he would like to put all of the proposed areas for the next few years to define the competing priorities. For the meeting, there should be a clarification of how the housing, historic preservation and open space priorities have been structured.

Dave read Lexington's plan with the introduction about resource allocation. Laura raised a concern about the way to get as much feedback as possible perhaps by making materials available. Peter noted that we will find a way to address concerns while understanding the competing interests. Liked the idea of getting as diverse a population as possible with responses by email and begun by a slide show of materials. What we need to figure out is how we recruit people and how we divide areas of responsibility. Mary noted that Homework tasks that might be put into different places. Email address needed. Paris agreed to make a Facebook Page. Peter will work to develop a few slides on past funding, working with Town Staff on this. 2-3 page summary of what we're aiming for and what we have. Preliminary plans. Paris will do Conservation, Peter will do Housing, Laura will do Historical Commission, Jim Brissette will do Recreation. Jim Oldham will try to develop a flyer for the event. We can do these things individually and meet in July.

Mary wants us to send coherent publicity out to the Community before August 28th. Laura suggested that this should be one of the tasks divided up. Meeting on the 28th with blurbs from each area (1/2 page on

each area) to review here, aiming for a maximum of 3 pages. Dave noted that on the CPC Coalition pages you can get a clear idea for this from the other towns and noted that Jim Brissette as a professional writer and editor might be willing to delegate. IF we organize the publicity for the hearing, can we begin on the 28th but Marilyn noted that the proposed meeting date is the beginning of Labor Day Weekend. Jim Oldham suggested a meeting in July to prepare, in addition to the August 28th meeting. Peter proposed Thursday, July 31st for a meeting. Those who can make it should bring their materials or send them in before the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:38 pm, voted and approves 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Lovett
Approved August 28, 2014

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Agenda
CPAC Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2014
CPAC Executive Session Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2014
CPAC Meeting Minutes, May 8, 2014